

Immunization: Promoting Prevention for a Healthier Life

September 24 - 30 is National Adult Immunization Awareness Week. This annual health observance provides an excellent reminder for you to talk with your Medicare patients about vaccine-preventable diseases and ensure that they are protected against influenza and pneumonia, which together are the fifth leading cause of death among adults 65 and older in the U.S. These vaccines are safe and effective, and there are no out-of-pocket costs for your Medicare patients. CMS needs your help to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries take full advantage of these preventive benefits. For information about National Adult Immunization Awareness Week, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/events/naiaw/default.htm>. For information about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and educational resources, go to (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0667.pdf>).